

New Vehicle Glass

New Car Technology



This is an example of a polycarbonate window being tested in many vehicles such as this minivan.

There are several different types of glass found on vehicles produced today and they may make our job a little bit more difficult if the vehicle is involved in a crash where the victims may need to be extricated. They include:

- **Laminated Glass** — It is found primarily in windshields of vehicles but is now starting to be used for the rear windows of a number of auto makers.
- **Tempered Glass** — This type of glass is found on the side and rear windows and is easily broken with a center punch and breaks into small pieces.
- **EPG (Enhanced Protective Glass)** — This is a newer type of safety glass introduced as a stronger, lighter and thinner type of glass. It utilizes the same principle as laminated glass, with two pieces of glass sandwiched around a new type of material called PVB (polyvinyl butyral). This material is considered safer than laminated glass but we will need to use a windshield saw or axe to gain entry at every window location.
- **Polycarbonate Glass** — Some manufacturers are considering using polycarbonate materials for their windows. It should be used initially in non-moving windows, such as the side windows on minivans.

Research Assignment

Visit local car dealers or manufacturer websites for information about the changes in different types of vehicle construction materials.